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FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Aug 19, 2021

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

2:21-CR-69-SAB

v.

Plea Agreement

STEPHEN ANDREW DAHLIN,

Defendant.

Plaintiff United States of America, by and through Joseph H. Harrington, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington; Richard R. Barker, Assistant United States Attorney; Defendant, STEPHEN ANDREW DAHLIN, and Defendant's counsel, Houston Goddard, agree to the following Plea Agreement:

1. Guilty Plea, Maximum Statutory Penalties, and Supervised Release

The Defendant, STEPHEN ANDREW DAHLIN (hereinafter Defendant) by and through this Plea Agreement agrees to plead guilty to the Indictment, filed on May 26, 2021, charging him with Possession of Counterfeit Currency, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 472. The Defendant understands that Possessing Counterfeit Currency is a Class C Felony and carries maximum statutory penalties of not more than a 20-year term of imprisonment; a fine of not more than \$250,000; not more

Plea Agreement – Stephen Andrew Dahlin

1 than a 3-year term of supervised release; a \$100 special penalty assessment; and
2 restitution.

3 Defendant understands that a violation of a condition of any period of
4 supervised release imposed by the Court carries an additional penalty of re-
5 imprisonment for all or part of the term of supervised release without credit for
6 time previously served on post-release supervision.

7 2. The Court is Not a Party to the Agreement:

8 The Court is not a party to this Plea Agreement and may accept or reject this
9 Plea Agreement. Sentencing is a matter that is solely within the discretion of the
10 Court. The Defendant understands that the Court is under no obligation to accept
11 any recommendations made by the United States and/or by the Defendant; that the
12 Court will obtain an independent report and sentencing recommendation from the
13 U.S. Probation Office; and that the Court may, in its discretion, impose any
14 sentence in deems appropriate up to the statutory maximums stated in this Plea
15 Agreement.

16 The Defendant acknowledges that no promises of any type have been made
17 to the Defendant with respect to the sentence the Court will impose in this matter.
18 The Defendant understands that the Court is required to consider the applicable
19 sentencing guideline range, but may depart upward or downward in the exercise of
20 its discretion pursuant to *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), and 18
21 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

22 Defendant also understands that, if the Court does not accept the parties'
23 recommendations, then that decision is not a basis for withdrawing from either this
24 Plea Agreement or his plea of guilty.

1 3. Waiver of Constitutional Rights:

2 The Defendant understands that by entering this plea of guilty, the
3 Defendant is knowingly and voluntarily waiving certain constitutional rights,
4 including:

- 5 a. The right to a jury trial;
6 b. The right to see, hear, and question the witnesses;
7 c. The right to remain silent at trial;
8 d. The right to testify at trial; and
9 e. The right to compel witnesses to testify.

10 While the Defendant is waiving certain constitutional rights, the Defendant
11 understands he retains the right to be assisted through the sentencing and any direct
12 appeal of the conviction and sentence by an attorney, who will be appointed at no
13 cost if the Defendant cannot afford to hire an attorney. The Defendant also
14 acknowledges that any pretrial motions currently pending before the Court are
15 waived.

16 4. Elements of the Offenses:

17 The United States and Defendant agree that, in order to convict Defendant of
18 Possessing Counterfeit Currency in Violation of 18 U.S.C. 472, the United States
19 would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the following elements:

20 *First*, on or about December 29, 2020, in the Eastern District of Washington,
21 Defendant knowingly possessed the following falsely made, forged, and
22 counterfeited Federal Reserve Notes:

- 23 - One \$20 Federal Reserve Note, bearing serial number ML23413407I;
24 - Four \$5 Federal Reserve Notes, bearing serial numbers PE41098766B
25

26 *Second*, the Defendant knew the FRNs were counterfeit;
27

1 *Third*, Defendant possessed the counterfeit FRNs with intent to defraud.

2 5. Factual Basis and Statement of Facts:

3 The United States and Defendant stipulate and agree that the following facts
4 are accurate; that the United States could prove these facts beyond a reasonable
5 doubt at trial; and these facts constitute an adequate factual basis for Defendant's
6 guilty plea. This statement of facts does not preclude either party from presenting
7 and arguing, for sentencing purposes, additional facts that are relevant to the
8 guideline computation or sentencing, unless otherwise prohibited in this Plea
9 Agreement.

10 On December 29, 2020, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
11 Defendant was arrested by the Spokane Police Department on a felony warrant
12 following a traffic stop. Dahlin was searched incident to arrest during the booking
13 process at the Spokane County Jail by Spokane Police. While searching Dahlin's
14 wallet during the property inventory process at the jail, a Spokane Police
15 Department Officer observed a \$5 Federal Reserve Note (FRN), which appeared to
16 be counterfeit. The bill did not have the correct dimensions for a genuine FRN, did
17 not have the same texture as a genuine FRN, and the printing on the note was not
18 "crisp and clear" as it would be on a genuine FRN. Spokane Police continued their
19 search of Dahlin's wallet, observing a total of four \$5 FRNs, each with the serial
20 number ML23413407I, and one \$20 FRN with the serial number PE41098766B,
21 which also was counterfeit.

22 United States Secret Service – which was conducting its own investigation
23 into several alleged incidents involving Dahlin allegedly passing counterfeit
24 currency – took the bills as evidence and confirmed that each was counterfeit.
25 Defendant acknowledges that he knew the bills were counterfeit and he intended to
26 use and/or pass the bills off as genuine United States Currency.
27

1 6. The United States Agrees:

2 The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington,
3 agrees not to bring any additional charges against Defendant based upon
4 information in its possession, at the time of this Plea Agreement and arising out of
5 Defendant's conduct involving illegal activity charged in this Indictment, unless
6 Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement, any time before sentencing.

7 7. United States Sentencing Guideline Calculations:

8 Defendant understands and acknowledges that the United States Sentencing
9 Guidelines (hereinafter "USSG") are applicable to this case, and that the Court will
10 determine Defendant's applicable advisory sentencing guideline range at
11 sentencing.
12

13 a) Base Offense Level:

14 The United States and Defendant agree that the base offense level for
15 Possessing Counterfeit Currency is 9. *See* USSG § 2B5.1(a). The United States
16 and Defendant believe no Specific Offense Characteristics apply.

17 b) Acceptance of Responsibility:

18 If the Defendant enters pleas of guilty and demonstrates a recognition and an
19 affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the criminal conduct; provides
20 complete and accurate information during the sentencing process; does not commit
21 any obstructive conduct; accepts this Plea Agreement, and enters pleas of guilty not
22 later than the Pretrial Conference, the United States will move for a two (2)-level
23 downward adjustment in the Combined Offense Level for the Defendant's timely
24 acceptance of responsibility, pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3E1.1(a). Should the Court
25 determine that the offense level is 16 or greater, the United States will move for an
26 additional 1-level downward adjustment, pursuant to U.S.S.G. §3E1.1(b).
27

1 The United States and the Defendant agree that the United States may at its
2 option and upon written notice to the Defendant, not recommend a downward
3 reduction for acceptance of responsibility if, prior to the imposition of sentence,
4 the Defendant is charged or convicted of any criminal offense whatsoever or if the
5 Defendant tests positive for any controlled substance.

6 c) Criminal History:

7 The United States and the Defendant have made no agreement and make no
8 representations as to the criminal history category, which will be determined by the
9 Court, after the Presentence Investigative Report is completed.

10 8. Departures and Variances:

11 The United States agrees not to seek an upward departure from the
12 applicable sentencing guideline range, as determined in the Presentence
13 Investigation Report.

14 9. Incarceration:

15 The United States agrees that it will recommend a sentence no higher than
16 the low-end of the Advisory Guideline Range as determined by the Court at the
17 time of Sentencing. Defendant is free to recommend any legal sentence.

18 10. Criminal Fine:

19 The parties agree that neither party will recommend a criminal fine.

20 11. Probation and/or Supervised Release:

21 The United States and Defendant agree to recommend a 3-year term of
22 probation and/or supervised release to include any special conditions as determined
23 by the Court.

24 12. Mandatory Special Penalty Assessment:

25 Defendant agrees to pay the \$100 mandatory special penalty assessment to
26 the Clerk of the Court. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

1 13. Additional Violations of Law Can Void Plea Agreement:

2 Defendant and the United States agree that the United States may, at its
3 option and upon written notice to Defendant, withdraw from this Plea Agreement
4 or modify its recommendation for sentence if, before sentence is imposed,
5 Defendant is charged or convicted of any criminal offense whatsoever, or if
6 Defendant tests positive for any controlled substance.

7 14. Appeal Rights:

8 The Defendant understands that he has a limited right to appeal or challenge
9 the convictions and sentences imposed by the Court. The Defendant hereby
10 expressly waives his right to appeal his conviction and the sentence, including any
11 fine, any term of supervised release, special penalty assessments, any restitution
12 imposed or ordered by the Court.

13 Should the Defendant successfully move to withdraw from this Plea
14 Agreement, or should either of the Defendant's convictions be dismissed, set aside,
15 vacated, or reversed, the Plea Agreement shall become null and void; the United
16 States may prosecute the Defendant on all available charges involving or arising
17 out of this Indictment. Nothing in this Plea Agreement shall preclude the United
18 States from opposing any post-conviction motion for a reduction of sentence or
19 other attack of the conviction or sentence, including, but not limited to,
20 proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (writ of habeas corpus). However,
21 Defendant further expressly waives his right to file any post-conviction motion
22 attacking his convictions and sentence, including a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
23 2255, except one based upon ineffective assistance of counsel based on
24 information not now known by Defendant and which, in the exercise of due
25
26
27

1 diligence, could not be known by Defendant by the time the Court imposes the
2 sentence.


3 15. Integration Clause:

4 The United States and Defendant, acknowledge that this document
5 constitutes the entire Plea Agreement between the United States and Defendant,
6 and no other promises, agreements, or conditions exist between the United States
7 and Defendant. This Plea Agreement is binding only on the United States
8 Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington, and therefore cannot bind
9 other federal, state or local authorities. The United States and Defendant agree that
10 this agreement cannot be modified except in a writing that is signed by the United
11 States and Defendant.

12
13 Approvals and Signatures

14 Agreed and submitted on behalf of the United States Attorney's Office for
15 the Eastern District of Washington.

16 Joseph H. Harrington
17 Acting United States Attorney

18 
19 Richard R. Barker
20 Assistant U.S. Attorney


7/30/21

21
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28 Date

22 I have read this Plea Agreement and have carefully reviewed and discussed
23 every part of the agreement with my attorney. I understand and voluntarily enter
24 into this Plea Agreement. Furthermore, I have consulted with my attorney about my
25 rights, I understand those rights, and I am satisfied with the representation of my
26 attorney in this case. No other promises or inducements have been made to me,
27
28

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1 other than those contained in this Plea Agreement and no one has threatened or
2 forced me in any way to enter into this Plea Agreement. I am agreeing to plead
3 guilty because I am guilty.

4 
5 _____
6 STEPHEN ANDREW DAHLIN
6 Defendant

7/30/21

Date

7 I have read the Plea Agreement and have discussed the contents of the
8 agreement with my client. The Plea Agreement accurately and completely sets forth
9 the entirety of the agreement between the parties. I concur in my client's decision
10 to plead guilty as set forth in the Plea Agreement. There is no legal reason why the
11 Court should not accept Defendant's plea of guilty.

12 
13 _____
14 Houston Goddard
14 Attorney for Defendant

7/30/21

Date